Item	Quantity
Opium	1458.440 kgs.
Heroin	630.000 kgs.
Ganja	110512.000 kgs.
Hashish	5036.000 kgs.
Methaqualone	27189.000 kgs.
Acetic Anhydride	40152.000 Ltrs.
Morphine	15.000 kgs.+44500 Amps.

(Figures are provisional)

(c) Agencies involved in prevention and detection of narcotics are aware of the gangs involved in smuggling/illicit trafficking of narcotics. It is not possible to provide further details in the interest of enforcement work.

Collection of Excise Duty

2199. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated total revenue per annum collected from the excise duty levied on normal weight concrete building blocks (vide sub-head 6807.00 chapter 68) indicating the revenue earned during the last three years; and

(b) whether Government, on representation from Members of Parliament and Housing Industry, have been considering withdrawal of this levy in view of the low revenue yield from this item and the fact concrete light weight blocks (solid and hollow) are already exempt from the levy of excise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Informaltion in respect of excise duty levied on normal weight concrete building blocks is not separatly maintained. Information is available only for entire sub- heading No. 6807.00 which includes a large number of goods including concrete building blocks. Total revenue realised from sub-heading No. 6807.00 for 1992-93 and 1993-94 is provisionally placed at Rs. 89 and 129 crores. Information for 1994-95 is not yet available.

(b) Government have received representation for exempting normal weight concrete building blocks, it has not, however, been found possible to exempt such products from excise duty. Small scale exemption is, anyway, available to such concrete building blocks.

Gold Biscuits sized at Madras Airport

2200. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 60 gold-biscuits weighing seven kgs, were seized from a passenger at Madras Airport on February 22,1995;

(b) if so, the details of the seizure;

(c) the total amount of gold seized by Customs, security, reserve, and other en forcement agencies, alongwith details of the seizures during 1994-95; and

(d) whether any gangs of smugglers operating in gold smuggling have been unearthed in connection therewith?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b): On 21.2.1995, officers of Air Intelligence Unit Madras International Airport Intercepted, a passenger holding Netherlands Passport No. E 401884. He had arrived from Colombo by flight UL 121. On personal search of the passenger, 22 gold bars each weighing 10 tolas were recovered concealed around his waist wrapped in adhesive tape, 19 Gold bars weighing 10 tolas were recovered from each of his shoes. Thus, in all, 60 Gold bars weighing 6990 gms. were recovered. The passenger was arrested on 21.2.1995 and remanded to judicial costody.

(c) 1069 kg. of gold was seized under Customs Act, 1962 during 1994-95 (upto Feb., 1995 figure are provisional).

(d) Anti-Smuggling agencies under the Ministry of Finance are aware of gangs involved in attempts to smuggle gold into the country. All efforts are made to detect and prevent such

organized attempts to smuggle gold into the country.

Assistance to Tobacco Growers in Andhra Pradesh

2201. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal of Tabacco Board to assist tabacco growers in Andhra Pradesh through fiscal measures; and

(b) if so, the details of policies to ensure better income through fiscal measures for Andhra tabacco growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHR MURTHY): (a) and (b) The informaiton is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

IMF on Interest Rates

2202. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Monetary Fund has asked Indian Government to cut down interest rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Amount of written-off Income Tax

2203. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have written- off a huge amount of Income Tax arrears/dues during the last two years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) The details of cases involving write-off of big amounts are given below:

Sl. No.	Name	Amount
1.	J.R. Motwani	91.74,865
2.	Mohd. Adam peer Mohd, lssak Late	100,51.000
3.	Sh. Gopal Das Gupta K. Raghunada	30.68.435
4.	Rao & Co. Gwalior Maize Products	16,79.460
5.	(P) Ltd.	22,17.007

Drug Trafficking in Channelising Illegal Money

2204. SHRI OP. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether corruption and complexity of institutions like banks, public administration are responsible for drug traffickers channelising illegal money in the country as has been brought out in the news-item captioned "Drug trafficking corrupts democracy" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 13th December. 1994;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY), (a) and (b) The news item is based on a Press Conference of the Secretary General of Interpol during his visit to India in September, 1994. His reported remarks were of a general nature and not specific to India.

(c) The Government is seized of the.potential of money laundering related to narcotics trafficking. The Narcotics Drug & Psychotropic Substances Act provides for tracing, freezing and forfeiture of property derived from illicit drug traffic.

Violation of instructions on GFR

2205. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are instructions in the General Financial Rules of Government